

From: Praedor Tempus
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/16/02 4:19pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a citizen I wish to express my strong opposition to the microsoft settlement as agreed to by the Justice Department and stand firmly behind the 9 hold-out states seeking to properly address microsoft's past and continuing misdeeds and unlawful behaviors.

Microsoft has continued to leverage its operating system monopoly to gain ground in other areas since the start of the antitrust suit. They are continuing to move to leverage their operating system monopoly to grab hold of internet commerce, forcing online purchasers to go through microsoft databases on microsoft servers with microsoft software. They are seeking to make the internet a primarily microsoft-driven domain; the internet cannot be allowed to "belong" to ANY corporation in any way. It belongs to everyone and must continue to be accessible by anyone with any operating system.

Microsoft is buying out patents, so it seems, from the faltering SGI. This itself bodes ill for SGI is the source of an OPEN graphics format used in industry and entertainment called OpenGL (Open Graphics Library). It is not likely, given microsoft's past and current behavior, that no harm will come of this. Indeed, it is likely that microsoft will seek to impose restrictive licensing terms on OpenGL licensees or use their purchases control of the library to drive it out of existence in favor of microsoft's own, proprietary direct3d graphics library (which ONLY works on microsoft operating systems).

Microsoft simply must have its teeth pulled. It MUST be forced to compete ONLY on the merits of software and in no way be allowed to ever leverage its current operating system monopoly to drive adoption of ANYTHING else they produce.

I do not know why the DOJ caved in and essentially allowed microsoft to write their own punishment, but it stinks to high heaven. The 9 holdout states stand in the right, they stand for the law, and they stand for fair competition. Their remedy is far and away superior to the toothless "remedy" accepted by DOJ at the behest of microsoft.

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